

There's A Solution

I was listening to the Steve Miller Band song, *Fly Like an Eagle* the other day. It was top of the charts in 1977, so I've listened to this song hundreds of times since I was in middle school. This day, my mind pondered the lyrics. I even did a search to see what others had to say about them.

The chorus goes like this:

I want to fly like an eagle

To the sea

Fly like an eagle

Let my spirit carry me

I want to fly like an eagle

'Till I'm free

Oh, Lord, through the revolution (sometimes it's Fly through the revolution)

What do you hear in these words? Does it connect with patriotism in the eagle and words of freedom or the Native American culture in the soaring of the spirit? Is it about escaping something – finding freedom? And then there's the revolution bit. That seems like a war theme that might try to make something new come about. Now, connect this chorus with the only verse in the song.

Feed the babies

Who don't have enough to eat

Shoe the children

With no shoes on their feet

House the people

Livin' in the street

Oh, oh, there's a solution



Maybe the freedom that is longed for and the revolution that is needed is for those who are struggling in this life – that they are freed from their pain and suffering to live joyful lives. We could add so many more to Steve's list: those affected by natural disasters, those who have lost everything to war in their country, those who have fallen into the opioid crisis because they were put on addictive painkillers, those who have served our country and now live with PTSD and physical ailments, those who are hungry and can't pay their bills, those who are lonely and grieving, etc.

While the list resonates with what we would call The Law in Lutheran theology, there is also a word of Grace in this song - *Oh, oh, there's a solution*. It began a long time ago when God came to live among us in Jesus. His words and actions were always about ushering in the reign of God, which is a fancy way of saying "love" and "how God intends for things to be." As people of God washed in the waters of baptism and fed at Christ's Table, WE are part of the solution. God has given the people of Zion, for 130 years now, wonderful gifts for serving in ministry. The Holy Spirit moves us to be compassionate, generous, caring, and loving. As a Christian, I choose to believe that *this* is the solution Steve is singing about.

Serving with you in Christ,
Pastor Elizabeth Martin

Community Meal



When you advertise FREE PIZZA you expect a crowd, and they did indeed show up in force. A record number of 127 people ate pizza, salad, and a variety of desserts at the August Community Meal. It was a thirsty group too, as we went through over 20 pitchers of lemonade and punch along with two gallons of milk and countless pitchers of water. Special thanks to the Northern Illinois Food Bank for the 48 12-inch pizzas loaded with all the toppings.

This group of dedicated volunteers hustled all night long: Jean, Marge, Kathy, Linda, Michelle, Judy, Sharon, Terry, Nancy, Dawn, Marilee, and Lillian.



The next Community Meal will be held on Wednesday, September 11. A volunteer sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

John Enright

Women of Zion

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Women of Zions School supplies for First Step Daycare. Thank you Kris Beever and Jane Schuessler for arranging them in front of the altar and to Pastor Arlyn Tolzmann for blessing them.



“God's Work Our Hands”

Participating in service projects is one way to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Women of Zion have planned a service project with Heritage Woods on Saturday, September 21, at 10 am. We will meet at the facility for a fall craft project with the residents. Muffins, juice, and coffee will be provided. All members are invited to come and help put these kits together. Please sign up on the bulletin board. Thank you.



Food Truck

The next food truck is on Saturday, September 28th from 10 am-11:30 am. If you are able to help please let Gary know at 815-547-7312.



Pioneer Club

Pioneer Lunch will be resuming Monday, September 9th at noon. John Enright will entertain us with a trivia game and chicken will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table setting.

Pioneer Club



Newcomer Informational Gathering

Have you been visiting Zion? Would you like to know more about our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)? Are you interested in learning more about Zion's ministries and opportunities? Perhaps you are even considering making Zion your church home. If any of these apply to you, please come to our Newcomer Informational Gathering on Sunday, October 6th, after worship. Feel free to get some refreshments upstairs, and then we will meet in the Library. You will receive some resources and be able to ask your questions. Pastor Elizabeth looks forward to meeting with you and getting to know you better.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation at Zion is a two-year program focusing one year on The Small Catechism and Lutheranism and another on the Bible. The 2024-25 year will be devoted to the Bible (Old and New Testaments).

The usual grades for Confirmation are 7th & 8th grades. If students miss joining in 7th grade, they can always come in later. We meet after worship about twice a month for about 1.5 hours.

Pastor will hold an organizational meeting for parents and students after worship on Sunday, September 15th, in Linda's Lounge. Please let Pastor Elizabeth know if you would like your child to be part of this year's confirmation class.

Parking Lot Project Update

After approval at the August 4th Congregational Meeting, competitive bids for the project were requested. Two bids were received and reviewed, and a decision was made to give the project to BelRock Asphalt Paving as they were the lowest bidder. Agreements and downpayments have been taken care of and they will be letting us know when we will be put into the schedule. One additional item that we are going to do to help with the project and getting water to drain away from the church as much as possible is to remove the air conditioning units that are used for the sanctuary area so we may raise the level of the blacktop in this area where we have had water seeping into the old nursery area in the past. This will mean that for several weeks, there will not be any air conditioning available in the sanctuary. Pastor and council are aware and if the weather conditions during this timeframe are exceedingly warm, we might move Sunday morning service to the Fellowship Hall as that area will continue to have air conditioning available. We will send out an e-blast when we know the tentative schedule for removal and replacement of the parking lot.

Memorial Committee News

At the August Council meeting, the following request was made and approved for expenditure from Memorial Funds.

- a. Installation of an air conditioning unit for the nursery area - \$4,000.

Besides being the nursery area cooling unit, this unit will be large enough to be used as an additional source of cool air for the narthex when needed.

Christ in Our Home devotional books for October-December are available for pickup.

Mission Support Fund News

At the August Council meeting, the following requests were made and approved for expenditure from the Mission Support Fund.

- a. Helping Hands - \$2,500
- b. The Baby Bank - \$3,000. With a maximum of \$500 for shelving.
- c. 130th Anniversary Committee - \$3,000
 - i. Church in India – up to \$1,300 in matching funds.
 - ii. Anniversary items - \$1,700
- d. Zion's Food Truck Ministry - \$3,000 for two truck events.
- e. Brenda Veit-Shiloh - \$250 for books to support her Diakonia education.
- f. Good Samaritan Fund - \$1,250
- g. ELCA Good Gifts - \$2,000

Grand Total of requests that were approved was \$15,000.



Growing in Faith Sunday School 2024 - 2025

Rally Sunday – September 8th, 10:15 – 11:15 am

Activities include registering for Sunday School, crafts, snacks, and games. Dress in comfortable clothes as we will be going outside.

Information about the coming Sunday School Year will also be available.

Sunday School – starts September 15th

NEW THIS YEAR!! – We are going to be trying out having Sunday School during the service. Kids will start in church with their adults, leave after the children's sermon, and return in time for communion. They will be gone for approximately 25 - 30 min.

We will have the same 2 groups we have now, Pre-k (3 and 4 yr. olds) through 2nd grade and 3rd – 6th grade.

We are also going to be asking that parents/grandparents/adults sign up to be a Sunday School helper one Sunday a month.

Questions?? Ask Pat Castro, I will be in church on Sept. 1st or call me at 815-520-5660.



Thank You!

To our family known as Zion Lutheran Church

Your outpouring of support, thoughts, and prayers has been overwhelming and humbling. Our situation with Alzheimer's, which we knew would come sooner or later, is difficult at best but more bearable knowing that your love is present each and every day. We thank God for your presence in our lives, and His love and wisdom guiding us through each day. It is a blessing for us to be members of this loving and caring family.

God's blessings,
Joanne and Terry



Dear People of Zion,

I so appreciate all your prayers and concerns during my father's illness and death. Thank you for your texts, emails, cards, and presence. I was very touched by all the love and kindness we have received. Thank you for giving me the time off to begin grieving, be with family, and help my mother. The basket of flowers at the visitation and funeral was absolutely beautiful. Thank you! You are a congregation that cares for your pastor, which will be important for the next pastor you call.

Gratefully,

Pastor Elizabeth and Wayne

Prayer Requests

Ardys Brockway, Terry and Joanne Miller, The Family of Michele Long, The Miralrio Family, Dennis Flemming, The Family of Harold Heeren, Wanda Watts, Emily Enright, Matthew Faust, Charles Lane, Gordon Rubeck, Cindy Smaha, Ron Nelson, Vicky Harley, Pat Huff, Bill Batterton, Wally Brown, Bob Kantner, Diane Vorndran, Guy and Pat Landmeier, Pat Melton, John Olson, Frances Palmer, Felix Ring, Juan Castro Jr, Olivia Rubeck, Michelle Marks, Todd and Lois Graves, Marilyn Urban, Stephanie Skelnik, Paula Crone, Helen Huftalin, Kendal Schmidt, Linda Johnson, Marcia Ellingburg, Dwaine Smith, Jim Johnson, Keira Kozlowski, The People of Ukraine, The People of Israel, The People living in Gaza, ALC Resurrection Church of India, Trinity Lutheran Church in Harvard

In Service to our Nation:

John Kozlowski, Justin Kozlowski, Rob Zediker



Happy Birthday from your Zion Family!



1-Savannah Hensley
2-Sapphire Watts
3-Lois Graves
3-Elleney Ogan
4-Brad Ogan
4-Avery Beever
6-Linda Zediker

6-Adrienne Mallegni
7-Kathy Hansen
7-Lorraine Carmichael
9-Caspian Downey
12-Tammy Zastrow
12-Wanda Watts
12-Chelsea Lopez

13-Aarron Minson
18-Imogene Brandt
19-Brenda Tobin
21-Jeff Ernest
21-Tanya Hoemke
24-Beth Hong
29-Kora Wick
29-Gordon Rubeck

From the Treasurer:

General Fund

07/2024	Beginning Balance	\$ 15,634.65	07/2024
	Total Income	\$ 13,216.00	
	Total Expense	<u>\$ 16,757.87</u>	
	Balance	\$ 12,092.78	

Building Fund

Beginning Balance	\$15,820.92
Total Income	\$ 2,492.00
Total Expense	<u>\$ 2,153.05</u>
Balance	\$ 16,159.87

General Fund Reserve Savings (new Account)

July/2024	Beginning Balance	\$195,370.80
	Income (interest)	131.95
	Expenses	<u>0.00</u>
	Balance	\$195,502.75

Staff

Rev. Elizabeth Martin
Intentional Interim Pastor

Mandy Minson
Administrative Assistant

Ken Anderson
Council President

Dan Albrecht
Choir Director

Pat Castro
Sunday School Director

Diane Vorndran
Financial Secretary

Sharon Yunto
Treasurer

Worship Schedule

Sundays at 9:00am
Thursdays at 7:00pm

Find Worship Videos at
www.zionbelvidere.com

OR

On Facebook at
[ZionBelvidere+](https://www.facebook.com/ZionBelvidere/)

Council Members

Term Through January 2025

Ken Anderson
Jody Archer
Rodney Brandmire
Dawn Calkins
Doug Shiloh
Gary Yunto

Term Through January 2026

Gretel Baird
Melody Johnson
David Schumann

Term Through January 2027

Kris Enright
Michelle Ernest
Kelly Kotajarvi

Texts for the Month of September

September 1

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 8

Isaiah 35:4-7a
James 2:1-17
Mark 7:24-37

September 15

Isaiah 50:4-9a
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

September 22

Jeremiah 11:18-20
James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

September 29

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday Worship 9am Blessing of Labors	2 Office Closed Labor Day	3 HR Meeting 5:30pm	4 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am	5 7:00 pm – Worship	6 Office Closed	7
8 Sunday Worship 9am Rally Sunday Students/Teachers Blessing	9 Pioneer Lunch 12:00pm Worship & Music 5pm Shiloh 6pm	10	11 Council Reports Due by 9am Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Baby Bank 4pm-6pm Community Meal 5pm-6pm	12 7:00 pm – Worship	13 Office Closed	14
15 Sunday Worship 9am 10:20am Confirmation Parent/Student Meeting	16 Witness 6pm	17	18 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am Council Meeting 7pm	19 7:00 pm – Worship Holden Sundae	20 Office Closed	21 Zion Craft Day at Heritage Woods 10am
22 Sunday Worship 9am Silent Quilt Auction	23 Packing up quilts	24 Tidings Articles Due by 9am	25 Bible Study 9:30am	26 Barnabas 6pm 7:00 pm – Worship	27 Office Closed	28 Food Truck 10am-11:30am
29 Sunday Worship 9am 10:20am-11:35am Confirmation Class	30	28	29 Sewing/Quilting 9am Bible Study 9:30am	30 7:00 pm – Worship	OFFICE HOURS Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm Closed Fridays	